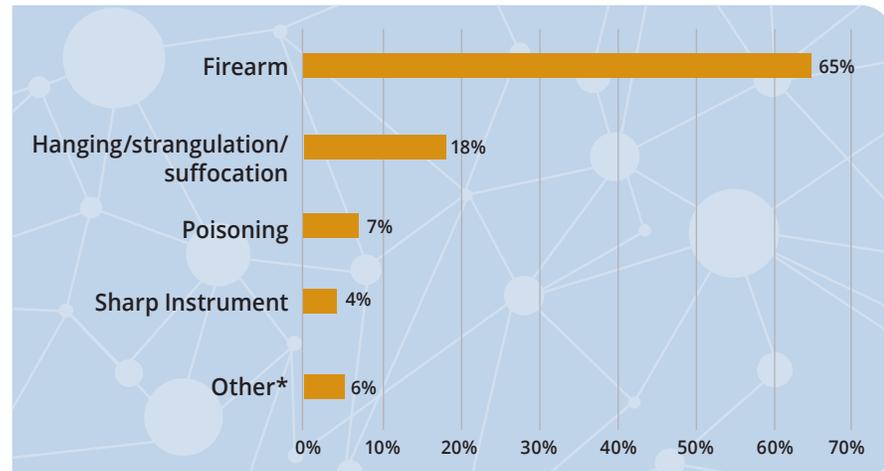


# FIREARM DEATHS IN OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS) is a statewide surveillance system for suicides, homicides, undetermined manner deaths, unintentional firearm injury deaths and legal intervention deaths. Data are collected from medical examiner reports, death certificates, and law enforcement reports to better understand and inform prevention activities focused on preventing violent deaths. For more information, please visit [oklahoma.gov/health/okvdrs](http://oklahoma.gov/health/okvdrs).

## Violent Deaths by Method

OKVDRS, 2020

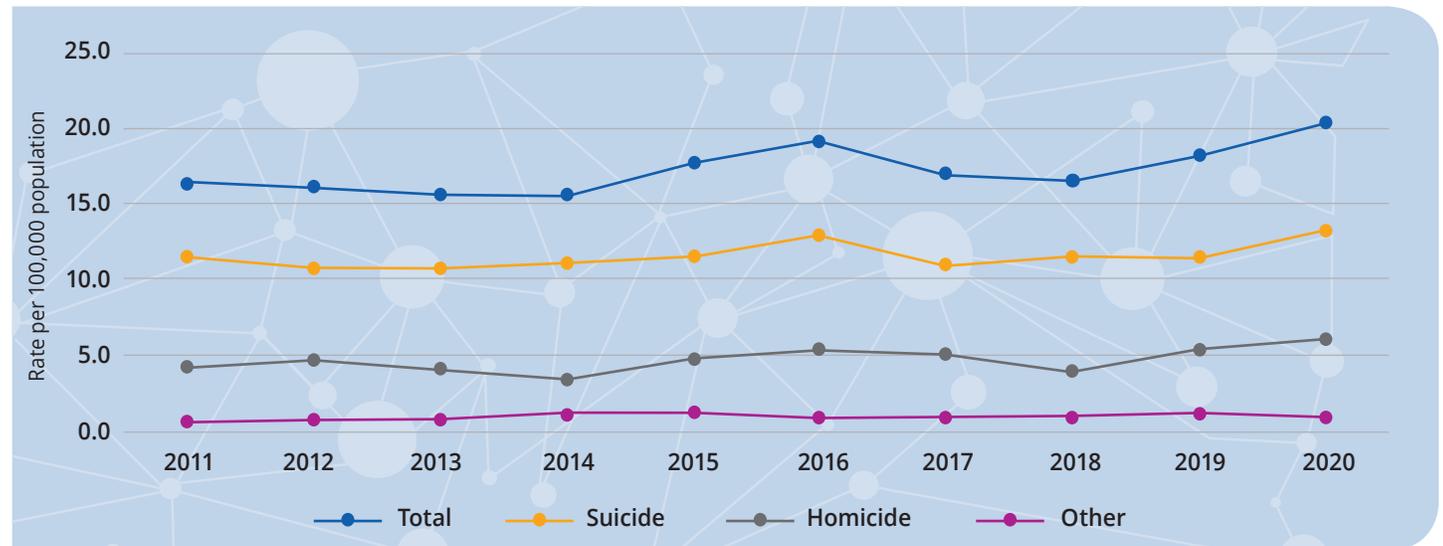


- In 2020, there were 841 firearm-related deaths among Oklahoma (OK) residents.
- Nearly two-thirds (64.8%) of all violent deaths in OK during 2020 were caused by firearms.
- Specific causes of firearm-related deaths included suicide (65.4%), homicide (30.0%), legal intervention involving discharge of firearm (3.1%), unintentional discharge of firearm (1.2%), and undetermined intent (0.2%).

\*Other includes motor vehicle and other transport vehicles, personal weapons (e.g. fists, feet, and hands in actions such as punching, kicking or hitting), blunt instruments, falls, drowning, fire/burns, and other/unknown methods.

## Firearm-Related Death Rates by Year

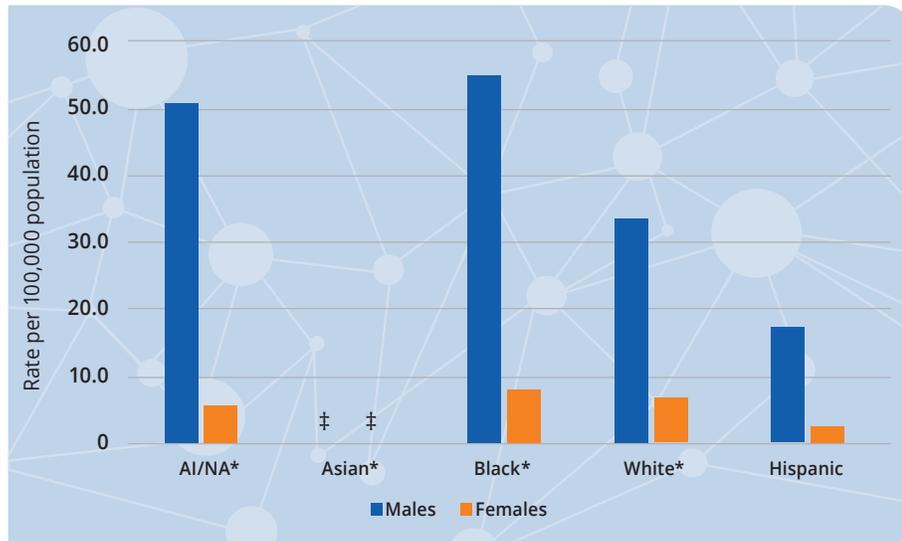
OKVDRS, 2011-2020



- The rate of firearm-related deaths per 100,000 population decreased slightly from 2011 (16.3) to 2014 (15.6); from 2014 to 2017 (17.1), the rate increased by 9.6%. The rate dipped again in 2017 and 2018 before increasing through 2020 (20.3). Overall, the rate increased by 24.5% from 2011 to 2020.
- The rate of firearm-related homicides varied from a low of 3.4 in 2014 to a high of 6.1 in 2020.
- The rate of firearm-related suicides varied from a low of 10.7 in 2013 to a high of 13.3 in 2020.
- The most common locations of firearm-related deaths were apartment or home (73.9%); motor vehicle, excluding school bus and public transportation (9.1%); street/road, sidewalk or alley (4.4%); natural areas such as a field, river, beach, or woods (3.4%); parking lot or public parking garage (2.1%) and a hotel/motel (1.3%).

## Firearm-Related Death Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity

OKVDRS, 2020



- Firearm-related death rates were lower for females than males across all racial/ethnic groups.
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Black (55.5), and American Indian/Alaska Native (51.1) males had the highest firearm-related death rates per 100,000 population during 2020.
- NH Black females (8.2) had a higher firearm-related death rate per 100,000 population than all other females.

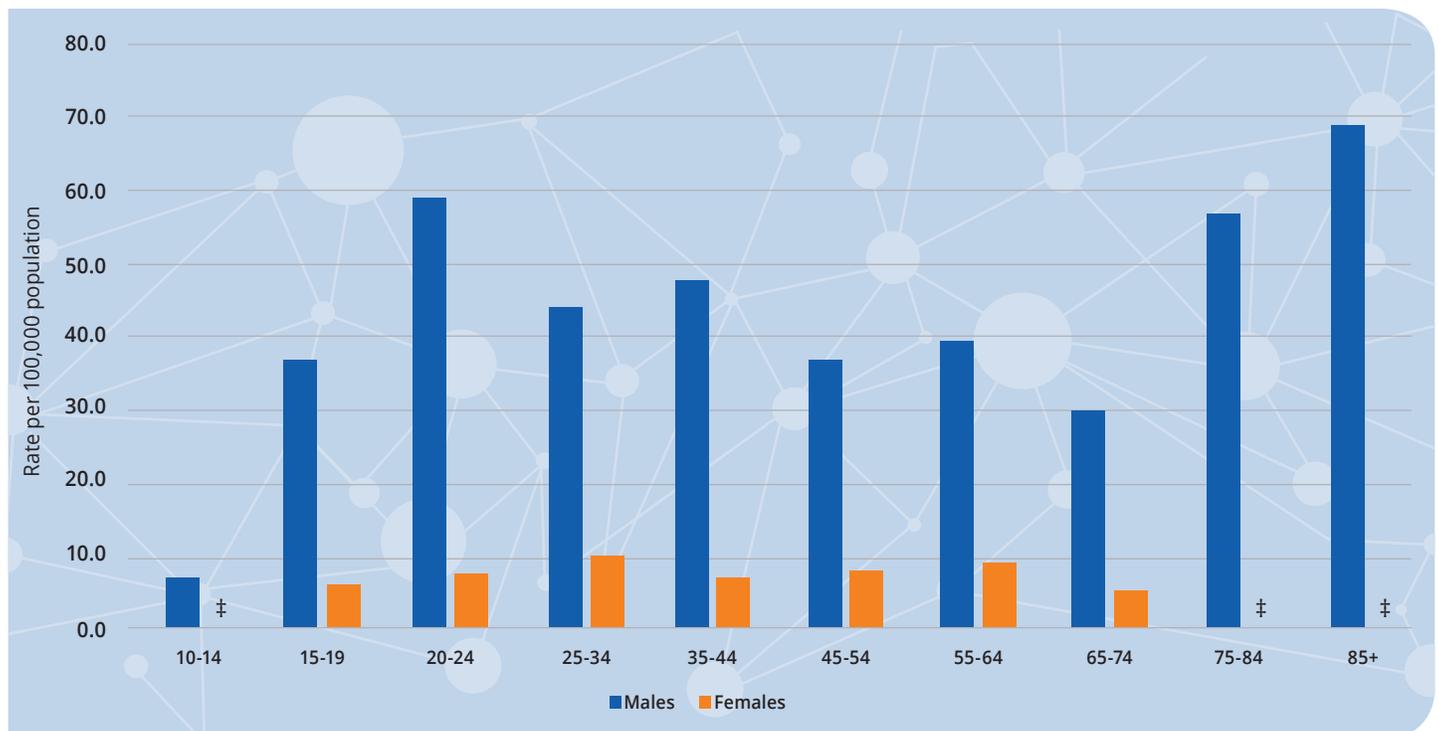
\*Non-Hispanic

‡Rate suppressed for counts <5

Nearly **85%** of firearm-related deaths were among males.

## Firearm-Related Death Rates by Sex and Age

OKVDRS, 2020



‡Rate suppressed for counts <5

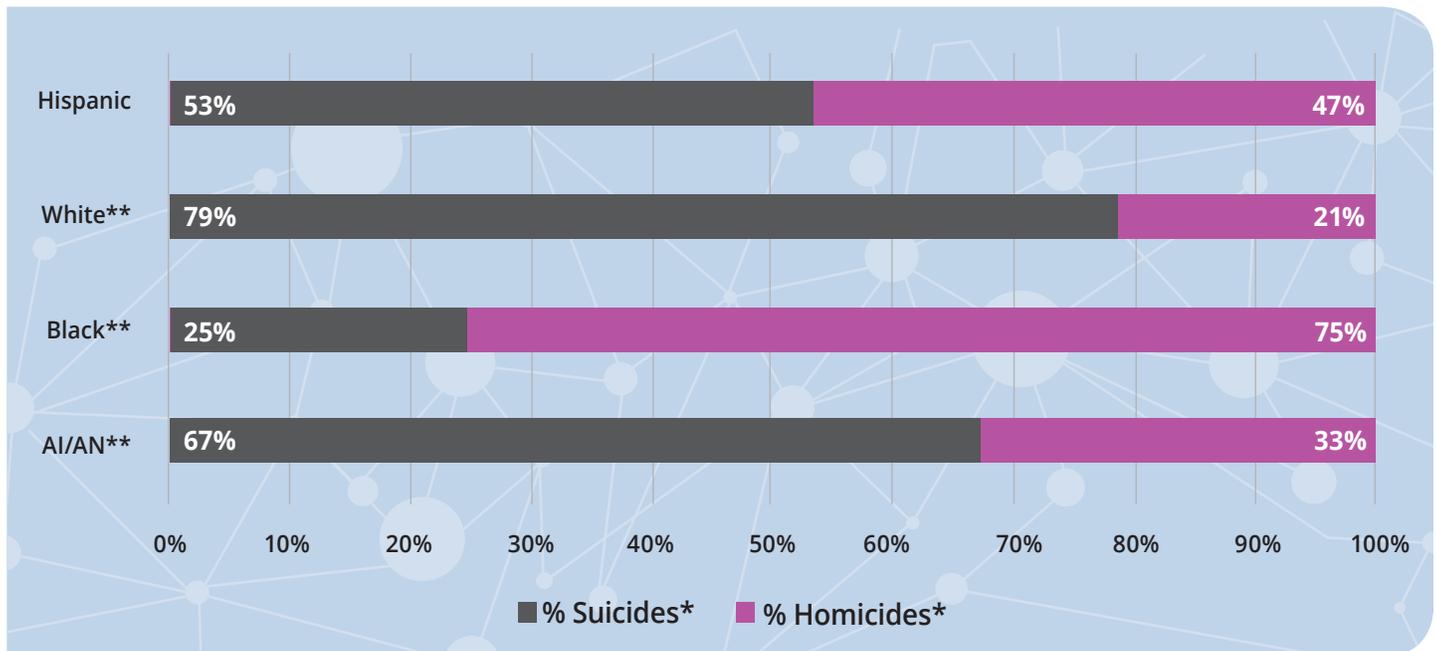
- 84% of firearm deaths are with handguns, 9% rifles, 7% shotguns.
- The firearm-related death rate was highest among men ages 85 and older (68.7) and 20-24 (59.1), while the rate among women was highest for ages 25-34 (10.1) and 55-64 (9.1).



**Two-thirds** of Oklahoma's firearm deaths are suicides.

## Suicide and Homicide Firearm-Related Deaths by Race/Ethnicity

OKVDRS, 2020



\*Among suicide and homicide firearm-related deaths

\*\*Non-Hispanic

- Suicide was the most common type of firearm-related death among NH whites (78.9%), NH American Indians/Alaskan Natives (67.3%), and Hispanics (53.5%), while homicide was the most common type among NH Blacks (75.0%).
- There were less than 5 firearm suicide or homicides among Asians in 2020.



Learn more at  
[oklahoma.gov/health/okvdrs](https://oklahoma.gov/health/okvdrs)  
405.426.8440